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*Osmunda cinnamomea*, L., var. *frondosa*.

Plate LV.

In 1876 Miss E. G. Knight and myself found at Pelham Manor, Westchester County, N. Y., a single plant of *O. cinnamomea* with fronds of the so-called variety, *frondosa*. I had looked from year to year in the same neighborhood for other specimens, but failed to find any until last June, (1885). I then found a group of scattered root-stocks,—I think some five or six in all, bearing modified fronds of the ordinary type, that is with the lower pinnæ sterile and the upper fertile. Amongst these was one which has some of the middle pinnæ fertile, and those above and below sterile, exactly as in *O. Claytoniana*, L. In fact, had I found it alone, I should have taken it to be that species. It has however, as the accompanying sketch shows, the apices of the pinnæ acuminate. In Eaton's "Ferns of North America," I find mentioned two forms of the variety—with the upper or the lower pinnæ respectively, fertile,—but nothing is said of the form before us. I therefore think it worthy of especial record, and would ask: Does this indicate conclusively that *O. cinnamomea* and *O. Claytoniana* are varieties of one species? Or, as these two species were both growing in this instance, as they often do, near together, could these sports be by any possibility the result of hybridization?

I took specimens of the two sports from the same root-stock.

EDWARD H. DAY.

**Proterandry in *Veltheimia*.**

A plant of *Veltheimia viridifolia*, growing in my house, is now in full flower and exhibits proterandry. After the blossoms have been open several days, the style, which till then had been shorter than the stamen, elongates and protrudes from the mouth of the perianth. At first I thought this a plain arrangement for cross-fertilization, but now I am not so sure of it. My wife points out to me that the pollen is shed indeed before the stigma can receive it, but by a shrivelling or contraction of the perianth, is held in a mass, and may be caught by the pistil in its passage or precipitated upon it by gravity. The inflorescence is racemose or ascending.

W. W. BAILEY.